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Editorial Page of The Capital Journal

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ACTING ON SUPPOSITIONS

The bill doubling the tax on autos may produce revenue and it may produce a nice fat little law suit. There is a difference of opinion between lawyers as there always is as to the constitutionality of the tax. The bill passing the senate yesterday was recalled from the house by Senator Olson's motion yesterday to insert a section declaring it was within the police power of the state that this bill was enacted into a law. This was done to strengthen it against attack in the courts. This bill was passed as a companion bill for the proposed bonding bill by which \$7,900,000 would be raised for road building, the proposition being to use the money paid by auto licenses for paying the interest on the bonds. At six per cent this yearly interest charge would be \$474,000 or about \$1,300 a day. At 5 per cent it would total \$395,000 or something more than \$1,000 a day. This interest will run just the same whether the auto licenses are collected or not. Suppose the auto license is declared unconstitutional? Will the people of the state who pay the taxes be content to have this debt saddled on them? The policy of this state has been to keep out of debt, and it is a policy that most of the taxpayers indorse. The passing of the bonding bill now is doing business on suppositions. With this bond interest to meet should the auto tax fail, where will the tax limitation let the other affairs of the state get off?

Now that we have a bone dry law as to liquor, would it not be wise to enact the same kind of drastic legislation as to lobbyists? Why would not a law be all right forbidding under severe penalties a hired lobbyist entering the state capitol during a session of the legislature. This as all other legislatures, has been besieged from the opening day by men paid to defeat this, or push that bill through. It would be, as Kellaher demonstrated verbally—a step in the right direction, if every paid attorney and lobbyist was not only forbidden to enter the state house and annoy legislators, but to lock them up for six months for each offense. It is a dead certainty that what these paid lobbyists want, is never beneficial to the people, and they simply interfere with legislation and "persuade," or to try to, legislators to do things against the interests of the people who sent them to attend to their business.

The legislature may save \$4,000 a year by the cutting out of one Industrial accident commissioner, but why gag at the gnat and swallow the camel that same legislature swallowed without even a wry face, and it was a good sized camel too with the humps well developed. By cutting out the state aid to the department, which is not needed, a saving of \$100,000 could have been made, but this was really too much. The salaries of a few stenographers looked much bigger, and then the salary of the commissioner was also a great saving. The part of his salary the state would have to have paid was one eighth of that sum or about \$500. The legislators saved that but let the \$100,000 go. More than that, the commission itself when the fund got larger than was necessary, instead of letting the state have the advantage of it cut out the payments by the parties interested. Economy is a queer thing as it is practiced in Oregon.

Whatever else may result from the war it has certainly given a great boost to socialism. Government control of first one thing and then another; commandeering food stuffs and fixing the price; taking over coal mines and transportation lines; these and many others of like nature, are socialism pure and simple. What effects this education will have after the war is over remains to be seen; but it, and what it accomplished, will not soon be forgotten.

The Oregonian says the Portland Journal is insane on the delinquent tax question. We disagree with this view of the case and protest against the growing tendency to plead insanity in defense of every crime in the calendar, and besides it is doubtful if the man responsible for the fight against the advertising of the delinquent tax list ever possessed brains enough to become mentally deranged. Fools seldom go crazy.

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THE PRICE OF PRINT & PAPER

Examination into the increased price of print paper by the department of justice has uncovered enough evidence to warrant the asking of indictments of paper manufacturers for alleged anti-trust law violations. A federal grand jury in New York is investigating to determine if there has been a criminal conspiracy in restraint of trade, and yesterday the manufacturers weakened and offered to arbitrate prices. Of course, like everything else, paper has increased in price, but it has increased apparently beyond all reason, being advanced 200 per cent. There does not seem any good reason for this, for the material is no more costly than before, and labor costing but little if any more than before the raise in prices. The federal trade commission will in a few days report to congress on the subject to the effect that it has found the increase in prices are from four to 20 times the advance in production costs. It will also report that there never has been an actual shortage of print paper, and that manufacturers have helped create a panic among publishers by intimating there was one. The newspapers are hard hit by the unheard of prices now prevailing. They are not in the same fix as the merchant, who can raise the price at which he sells when the cost price is increased, but are practically forced to continue their subscription price unchanged. This, so far as subscriptions are concerned leaves the newspaper owner without a cent of profit from that source, the paper, ink and press work costing as much as is received from the subscriber for the printed sheet. In some of the larger papers there is an actual loss, and the papers are compelled to look to the advertisers for the money to maintain them. Whether there has been a conspiracy in restraint of trade or not it is indisputable that the price of print paper is unreasonable and not justified by conditions.

One of the freak bills passed yesterday, and which only has to have the governor's signature to become a law is that providing an inspector for bees. The bees have been good steady workers since biblical days when Samson pronounced his famous riddle: "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." The inspectors of bees will now plough with the legislative heifer and the answer to the riddle will be that out of the strong state treasury will come the sweetness of a cashed warrant.

The placing of the forfeited lands on the tax roll will do no harm and it is not likely to do any good. There is but little doubt but that the government's title will be confirmed and when it is the lands will be in the same condition they were before the government gave them to the railroad company. It would be as sensible to try to collect taxes from the government lands in the state, that never passed from its possession, as to collect it on these forfeited lands if the government's title is good.

Under an act of this legislature it is made the duty of road supervisors to kill the weeds on the roadsides. Those officials have a steady job in sight. They will be watched with a great deal of interest by those who have lawns to take care of, in hopes that some means may be discovered by which the golden bloomed dandelion and the ubiquitous plantain may be indefinitely postponed.

The worst feature of the situation with Germany so far, is the hampering of transportation on land. The failure of ships to sail has congested the warehouses and storage facilities of New York and other shipping points, until cars cannot be unloaded and the result is to increase still further the already intolerable car shortage of the whole country.

Another freak bill is one of Dimick's fixing the weight of a sack of bran. There was a little discussion when it passed but the legislators stood for it. A hasty glance at its requirements indicates that it will compel the putting of three bushels of bran in a two bushel sack, but some folks will find no trouble in doing this.



THE MANEATER

James Jimpson has a savage pup, and when it sees a stranger, it seems to wish to chew him up, and put his life in danger. With smiling eyes James Jimpson sees where'er aboard he sallies, the people shinning up the trees, or sprinting down the alleys. Some morning James will call his dog, and call and whistle vainly; it will be deadlier than a log, and out of business, plainly. Some angry victim of its jaws will feed it because he slew that worst of critters. It's strange how many take delight in causing grief to others, who seem to work, in foolish spite, against all men and brothers. It's strange because the man of sense must know that course is dotty; it stirs up hatred most intense, and causes language naughty. And why should any fellow wish to go forth seeking trouble? We have enough unasked, odious! Why try to make it double? We have to treat our neighbors well, not on their corns be treading, or this old world in which we dwell will furnish rocky sledding.

Solons who are Busy Winding Up the Forty Day Legislative Carnival



Principal Appropriations (Continued from page five.)

By careful engineering past the rocky places the committee has been able to hit the mark set under that amendment. But in addition to the \$20,000,39 left out of the direct and indirect revenues, there also is on hand a balance of approximately \$200,000 from the unexpended balances of the last biennium.

This amount, the committee has decided, will remain unappropriated. It will be for the state what the small bank account is for the provident individual who lays up a penny against a rainy day. This, also, will be a gold-sand for the emergency board if it is required to meet during the next biennium, and already whispers are heard that "perhaps there will be many demands for a meeting of such board."

SHIP DAMAGED (Continued from page one.)

press the question." Judge Morton decided it would not be necessary for him to answer at this time. "About the time of the Sussex incident, I was sent to New York," Pollock said, continuing his testimony. "I was told to meet a gentleman who wished to see me. 'I knew the gentleman. He told me

that in view of the difficulties which had arisen he believed it best that the ship's plan, secret code and charts should be destroyed, so that if anything occurred, they should not fall into hostile hands."

Pollock said he had told his chief engineer to carry out orders to destroy the machinery should they come while he was not aboard.

He testified he had not thought it necessary to tell his government the ship had been libeled and was in the possession of the United States.

Following is a list of damage done to the Coelie, according to federal authorities:

Name plates on engine parts removed; water drawn from boilers; pumps stopped; valves closed; with wrenches and no wrenches available; making danger of the boilers bursting; the stem twisted off of one main valve; electric lights put out and lighting plant put out of order; two cylinders of the after-high pressure engine damaged; 16 by 12 inch pieces cut out of throttle and steam chest; pieces cut out of the bottom of the forward high pressure engine and the steam chest and throttle valves drilled out; one forward cylinder drilled out; the main throttle of the starboard engine broken.

Brass plates had been put back and guides newly applied, causing the belief that some chemical may have been placed underneath which, when it came

in contact with salt water, might destroy the engine entirely by exploding. The threads of the feed pipe had been stripped and an odor of acid was noticeable about the engine and a broken acid bottle was found.

It is estimated repairs would cost \$110,000 and take at least six months to complete.

The first orders to prepare to damage the ship "on receipt of a message" were received in April, 1916, the time of the Sussex sinking according to Captain Pollock.

AUTHORIZE VESSELS TO ARM

Washington, Feb. 17.—Representative Platt, of New York, today introduced resolutions authorizing merchant vessels to arm and defend themselves against German submarines, to authorize the president to commission all the vessels of the United States to capture any German vessel and distribute the proceeds from their sale as prize money and to suspend completely all commerce with Germany.

EMBARGO IS RATIFIED

Washington, Feb. 17.—The interstate commerce commission this afternoon officially ratified the virtual embargo against eastward shipments, announced yesterday by the representatives of the 30 of the largest railroads in the country, meeting here.



MY HUSBAND AND I Jane Phelps

THE WORLD'S AWRY

CHAPTER CL.
Mother invited Leonard to remain to dinner, but he excused himself on the plea of "business. Clifford came in and while he seemed surprised, to see Leonard there was no suspicion visible in his manner.

"I will see you soon," he had said to me, with meaning. "I thank you for your kindness to a lonely man," he told mother, when she repeated her invitation to the wedding.

"Did you know Brooke was coming down here?" Clifford asked after he left.

"No—but why do you ask?" "I thought perhaps he had told you," Clifford replied carelessly, and left me.

I wondered if he had begun to attach some importance to what I had told him, and if he had suspected that Leonard Brooke had anything to do with my resolve? How utterly foolish Leonard was to follow me. But—how he loved me.

A CHILLY RESPONSE
That night I excused myself and went early to bed. I wanted to be alone to think. I lay wide awake nursing my numerous grievances against Clifford, taking joy in Leonard's love; while angry with him for disobeying me.

I threw on a wrapper and sat by the window. I looked at the clock on the dressing table, and I was just one o'clock. After a while I heard foot-steps in the street below; then they ceased and I knew someone was walking on the soft turf. Feeling between the curtains I saw Leonard Brooke approach, then stand still and raise his eyes to scan the windows.

It was one of those clear white nights when one can see almost as well as by daylight. It would have been an easy thing to have called from my open window, but I was afraid of disturbing someone. I wanted desperately to tell him to go away, but restrained myself.

After gazing upward a few moments and evidently seeing nothing which guided him, Leonard raised his hat, and then turned and walked slowly away. To an older woman his act would have at least seemed theatrical. To me it was the homing of a loving heart. I listened until his footsteps died away in the distance, then crept into bed. The wedding was but two days distant, and I really needed my rest.

A CONFIDENTIAL CHAT
The very next morning, about eleven o'clock, Clifford came over.

"Are you very busy Mildred? If you can spare the time I'd like a little chat with you. I won't keep her long, girls," he told my sister as they re-belled.

My heart was literally in my mouth. I imagined I saw a gleam of jealousy in Clifford's dark eyes. I knew all color had left my face; and I gripped the arms of the chair tightly.

Clifford drew two chairs to the shady side of the porch, and motioned me to sit down.

"You aren't looking well, Mildred," he commenced, "you are as pale as a ghost this morning."

"Late hours, and too much dancing," I parried, glad of a reprieve.

I felt sure that he was going to tell me that I must go back home at once—with him; and I steeled myself to make a decided refusal.

"I do not think it is that entirely. You are young and strong and a little giddy—such as you have here—should not tire you. I wanted to tell you that Morton Levering is becoming interested in Elsie. It would be a good match for her."

"But he is so much older," I objected, relieved that he was going to talk to Elsie.

"Not as much difference as between our ages," he said. Then: "I have to return immediately the wedding is over. I have several engagements. But don't you think of coming back until you are ready," he ordered. "I mean what I say," he said as he rose and sauntered away.